

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We respectfully ask that you fund Job Corps in fiscal year (FY) 2010 at \$1.85 billion. In these turbulent economic times, it is essential to invest in successful programs that prepare young people with the skills they need to find jobs and lead independent lives. Job Corps has proven to be just such a program.

This investment will be used to strengthen and expand student academic, vocational and support services at the existing 123 Job Corps centers operating across the country, which will serve approximately 60,000 of America's at-risk youth. Specifically these funds will:

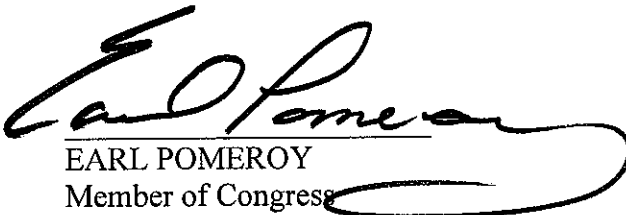
- Support over 45,000 student training slots at the existing 123 Job Corps centers and open two new centers scheduled to serve youth in FY 2010.
- Enhance Job Corps' vocational trades in order to meet new standards and requirements mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor through equipment and curriculum upgrades and hiring additional certified instructors.
- Expand skills acquisition in the area of green technologies for careers in the energy efficiency, renewable energy and environmental protection industries.
- Increase construction trade slot allocations for project-based learning to enable Job Corps students to invest in building their communities and centers.
- Address critical repairs and renovations at existing Job Corps centers.
- Support the expansion of Job Corps into communities experiencing growing numbers of youth dropping out of high school.

Job Corps serves as a viable choice for the nation's most vulnerable economically disadvantaged youth. More than one in five students enters Job Corps with a cognitive or learning disability. Seventy-four percent are high school dropouts. Most do not have family or financial support. Through Job Corps, however, 60,000 at-risk youth each year are supported in meaningful ways, including intensive academic remediation, employability and life skills courses and job placement. These comprehensive services are provided on a safe residential campus with adult mentors and role models working shoulder-to-shoulder with students 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

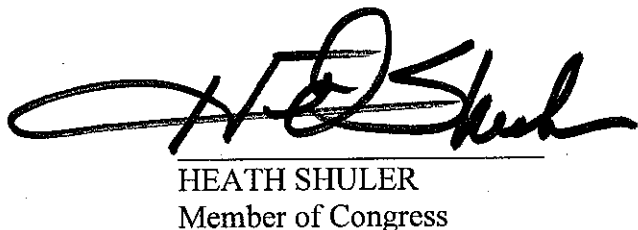
Finally, and most importantly, Job Corps' rigorous performance and accountability standards are a mainstay of the program's effectiveness. Job Corps centers are evaluated through outcome criteria including, but not limited to, the number of students who obtain employment, literacy and numeracy gains and graduates' average starting wages. The vast majority of students leave with a GED or high school diploma and over 85 percent of Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, enlist in the military or pursue higher education.

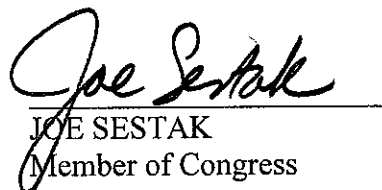
We appreciate your past support of the Job Corps program and urge you to provide \$1.85 billion for Job Corps program operations and capital improvements for FY 2010.

Sincerely,

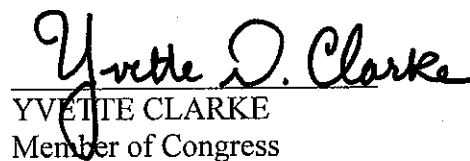

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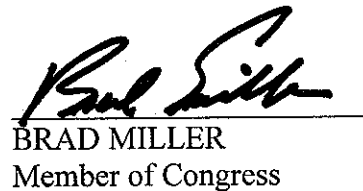

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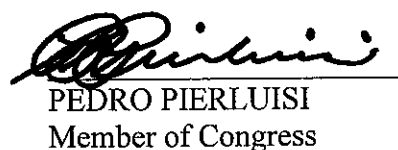

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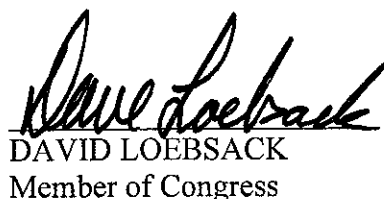

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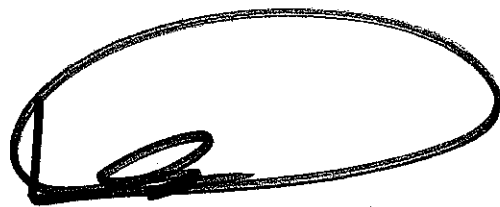

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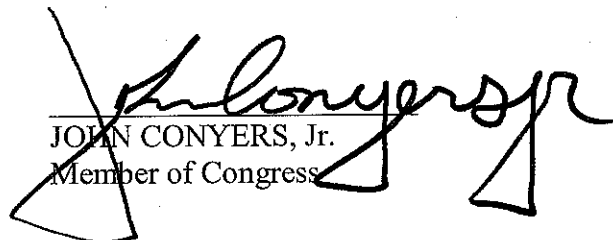
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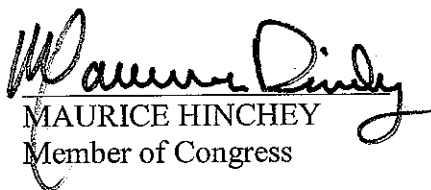
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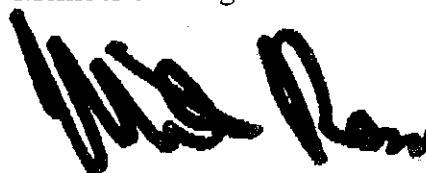
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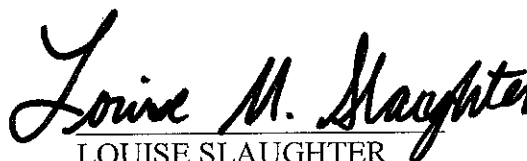
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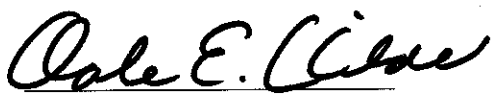
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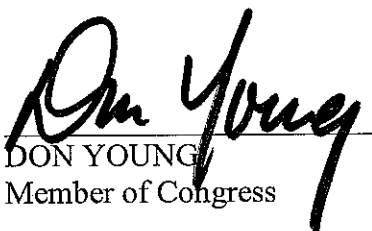
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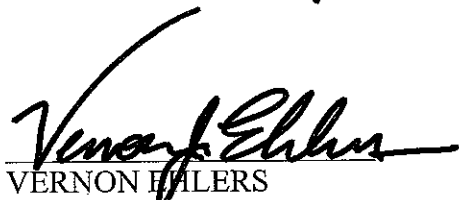
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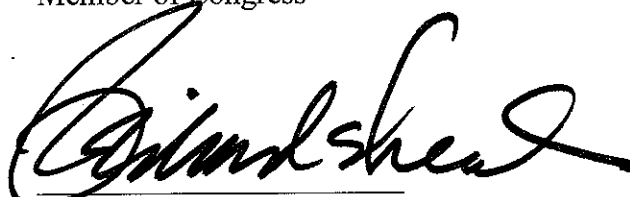
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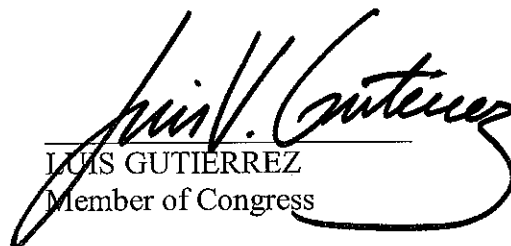
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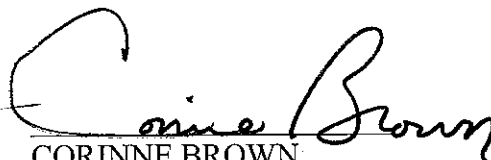
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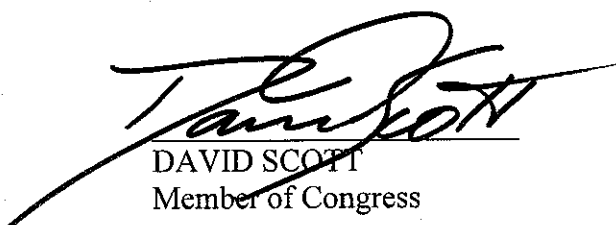

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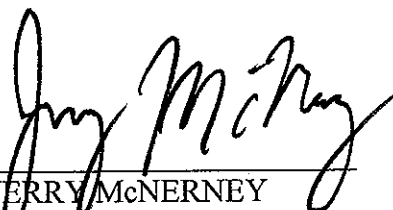

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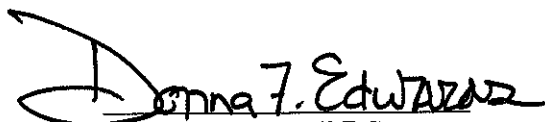

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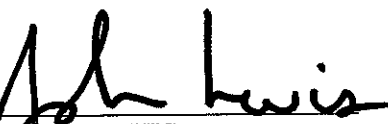

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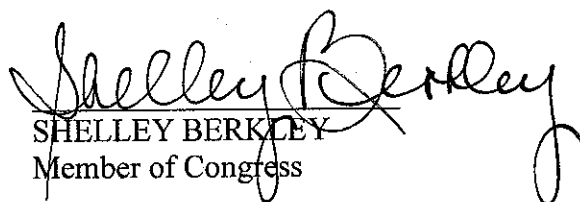

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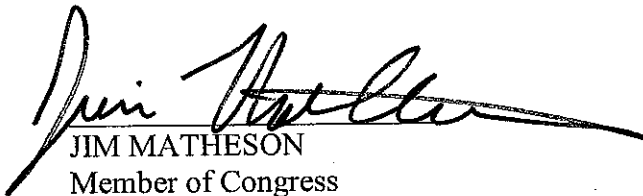
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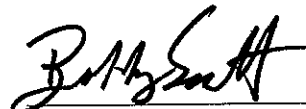
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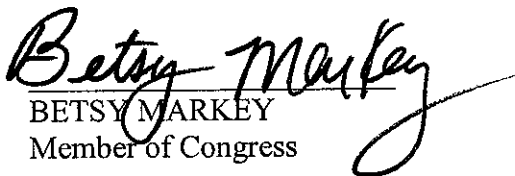
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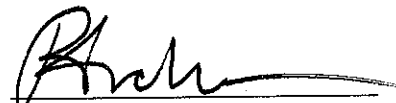
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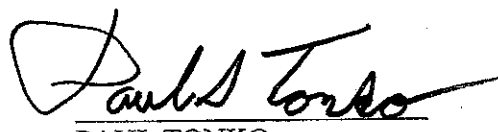

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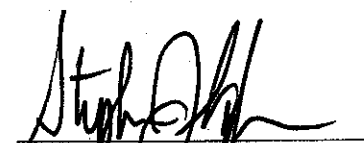

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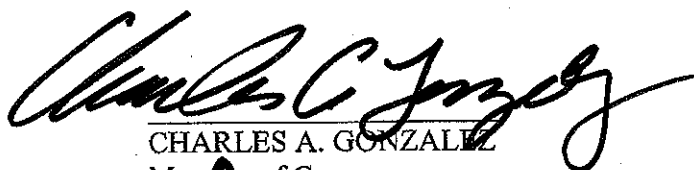

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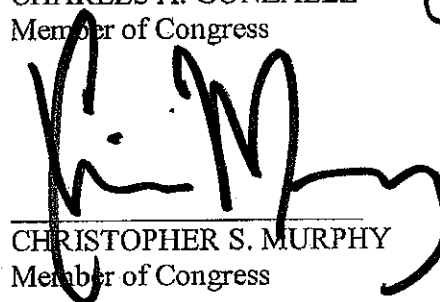

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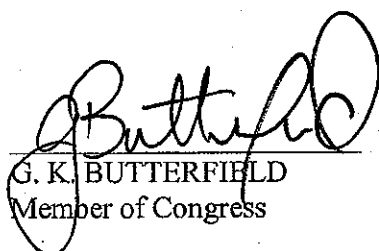

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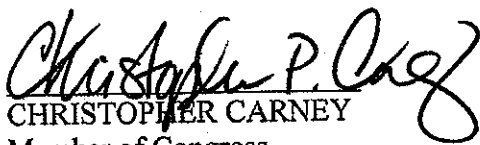

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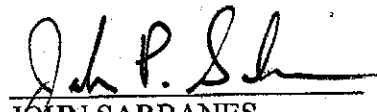

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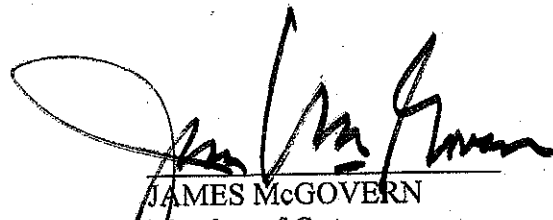

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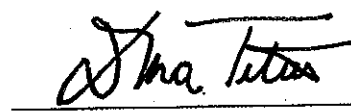

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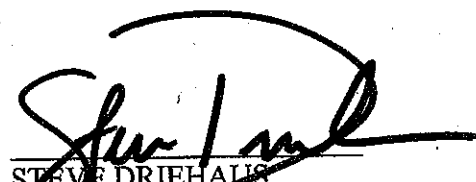

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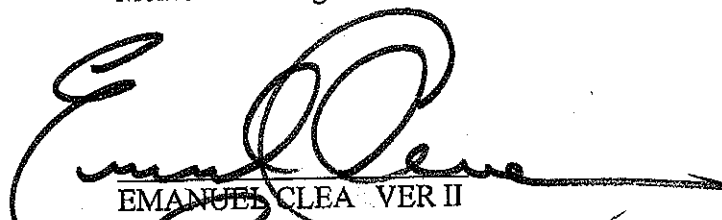

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